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BIGGEST BREAKUPS OF 2012 {page 12}

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MILES DIXON/METRO

Contest. Holiday decor

▶ Find out how to enter. {page 02}

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Report reveals record high stops by police officers in 2012

One group says that changes in police policy have not altered stop-and-frisk problems ◐ New data shows few arrests and record stops during early 2012 {page 02}

going out: food & drink

Send your Swiss Miss packing {page 34}

holiday: gift guide

For him, her and the wee one {pages 23-32}

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In the news

Senator pushes bill to curb ticket scalping

NEW YORK. State Sen. Daniel Squadron announced a bill yesterday that would ban reselling of charity tickets for more than their face value, the same day of the 12-12-12 concert for Sandy fundraising. Concert attendees complained that the tickets were sold on other sites for multiple times their value. Sen. Charles Schumer also asked websites not to list for more than face value. METRO/AB

In the news

Mayor Clinton?

NEW YORK. Want Mayor Hillary Clinton? No thanks, New Yorkers say. According to a poll from Quinnipiac University released yesterday, 58 percent of New York state voters said it was not a good idea. Only 36 percent supported the notion. In the city her support was a bit higher, with 46 percent saying they'd support a Clinton run for City Hall's top job. METRO/AB

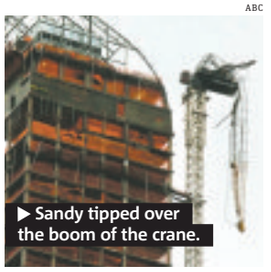
Crane collapse delays One57 construction

MIDTOWN. The crane collapse at One57, Manhattan's tallest residential tower, will delay completion of the luxury-condominium development and the move-in of its first residents by as much as 60 days.

"We were hoping to start delivering in June, July," Gary Barnett, president of Extell Development Co., the developer of the 90-story building said. "Now it pushes back delivery one to two months."

One57 attracted national attention during superstorm Sandy as the crane's partial collapse left the boom hovering. BLOOMBERG

ABC



▶ Sandy tipped over the boom of the crane.

1 WTC spire now in place

WORLD TRADE CENTER. Early yesterday morning, the long-awaited 60-ton spire for One World Trade Center was lifted to the top of the building to be put in placed by waiting construction workers.

The spire was at the heart of a dispute between the Port Authority and the Canadian firm ADF Steel that supplied the custom-made steel for it, which was resolved in late October.

ADF withheld the steel because they claimed the Port Authority owed them millions of dollars. METRO/DT

Cops find car in Midtown killing

MIDTOWN. Police said yesterday that the man who shot Brandon Lincoln Woodard in a tourist-heavy area near Columbus Circle did not act alone. According to the Associated Press, he fled in a car that was driven by another person. Police also said they found the alleged getaway car parked on a Queens street. Woodard was shot Monday afternoon and killed by one gunshot to his head. METRO/AB

Group: Stop-and-frisk problems persist in city

Center for Constitutional Rights is suing city Say data remained same for years, despite policy changes

Despite NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly's attempts to overhaul the department's stop, question and frisk methods amid a lawsuit against them, the group suing the city said pernicious problems persist.

The latest report from that group, the Center for Constitutional Rights, examines data from January 2010 to June 2012, which they say shows no change in the proportion of stops and other statistics.

Stops decreased between April and September 2012, but the high rate of racial disparities and low rate of arrests and weapons recovery remained, CCR reported.

The number of stops between Jan. 1 and March 31 was the highest of any quarter on record, they said.

Last year there were 685,724 stops, up from 601,285 in 2010. This was more than three times the increase between 2010 and 2009, when there were a total of 576,394 stops. Between January and June this year, there were 337,410 stops.

Back in May, Commissioner Kelly said in a letter that the captains of each precinct would personally audit all stop-and-frisk reports, and public complaints would be tracked per officer.

Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne told Metro these measures have been put in place and have resulted in fewer stops.

Browne also said, "Stops save lives and they comport with descriptions provided by victims of violent crime."

However, the federal judge presiding over the lawsuit, Shira Sheindlin, has ruled that the city cannot argue that reduction in crime is a result of stops, because the low percentage of weapons seized indicates otherwise. Less than 1 percent of stops result in weapon seizures, according to the CCR.

Quoted

"I never arrested a guy for a homicide as a result of stop-and-frisk."

GRAHAM WEATHERSPOON, RETIRED NYPD DETECTIVE

84
Percent of stops are of blacks and Latinos, higher than their proportion of the city's population

6
Percent of stops result in arrests

1.8
Percent of stops result in seizure of contraband

0.12
Percent of stops result in seizure of weapons

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Contest. Holiday lights

▶ One brownstone in Clinton Hill is decking the halls.

MILES DIXON/METRO

Show us your holiday lights for 2012

Do you spread holiday cheer through merry wreaths and giant inflatable Santas? Does your home illuminate the whole block with the warm glow of flashing icicle lights? Metro is looking for the best and brightest holiday decoration displays! Send us your photos and we'll be featuring the craziest, merriest and most awe-inspiring homes on the pages of Metro and on Metro.us. One lucky winner will receive a $150 gift card to Macy's. Entries must be sent to holidaylights@metro.us by Dec. 20. Photos submitted must be recent, and decorations must still be on display at time of entry. Entries are limited to residential homes. One entry per address. Entry must include name, phone number and address. METRO/CG

Cops bust 41 in gang arrests

BUSHWICK. Brooklyn police busted 41 members of a gang they said terrorized Bushwick. According to District Attorney Charles Hynes, the members of TBO, or True Bosses Only, boasted on Facebook about robbing people, including Lewis Davis, who they said bragged about stealing a 19-year-old's headphones, who he also shot in the leg, with a picture on Facebook tagged, "Free Swipe." The gang collected money from members toward bail and food for jailed gang members. Charges included murder, attempted murder and robbery. METRO/AB

"We have young gang members using social media to boast about murder and ... we have [NYPD] officers 'friending' them." RAY KELLY, NYPD COMMISSIONER

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Street vendors lobby Speaker Quinn for help

Sellers call fines as high as $1,000 excessive ◗ Vendors hope Quinn will use clout to lessen penalties ◗ Spills, table heights bring fines

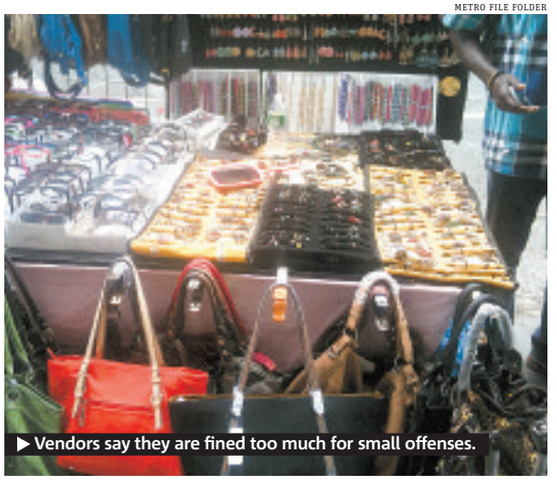
Street vendors are turning food carts into billboards — but instead of marketing to customers, these ads implore City Council Speaker Christine Quinn to lower fines.

The campaign, which starts today, features posters with a large photo of Quinn, asking her to push legislation lowering fines for infractions.

Vendors can receive fines as high as $1,000 for infractions like having a vending license in their pocket instead of around their neck, according to Street Vendors Project spokesman Sean Basinski.

A vendor near Penn Station told Metro he could be fined for not mopping up coffee spilled on the sidewalk by customers.

METRO FILE FOLDER



▶ Vendors say they are fined too much for small offenses.

One of the campaign's spokespeople is SoHo vendor Allesane Fall, who was fined $2,250 for his table being one inch too high and two inches too close to the nearest store.

The vendors behind the campaign say they hope that Quinn, an outspoken proponent of the interests of small business owners, will use her position in the City Council to advocate on their behalf and push legislation that they say is overdue.

That legislation would lower fines that they say can be so exorbitant they can cause them to lose their licenses and jobs.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN
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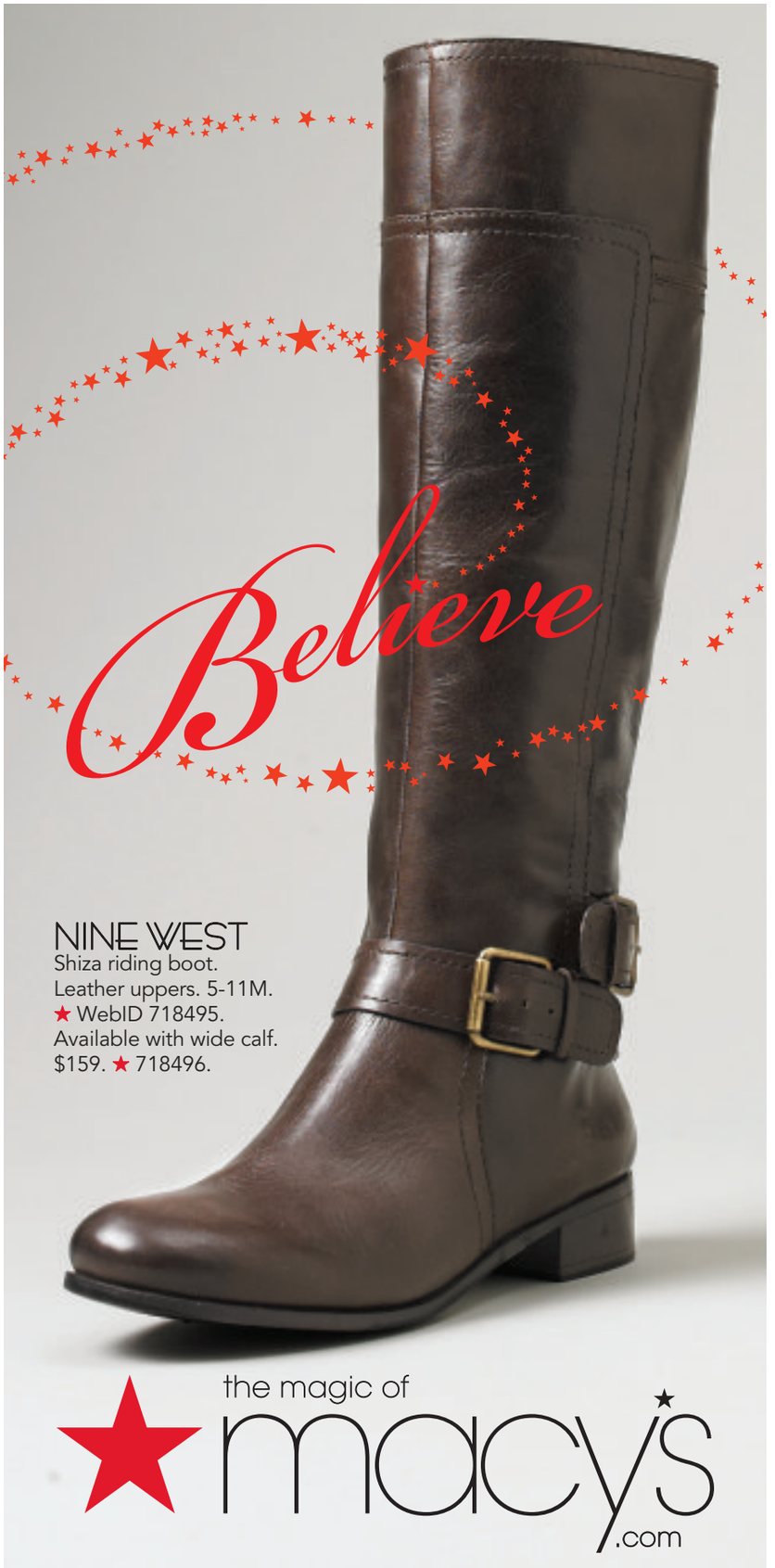

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KATIA SAVCHUK

▶ A crew of previously unemployed workers mop up a building's terrace in the storm-damaged area of Coney Island.

Jobless find hope in NYCHA's post-Sandy cleanup efforts

On a rainy Tuesday morning, Isiah Timmons woke early on the ninth floor of Coney Island Houses, less than a block away from the surf that flooded its lower floors a month ago. He grabbed a white protective suit, mask and goggles and walked two minutes to join his crew at Carey Gardens, a neighboring housing development.

Timmons is one of hundreds of workers hired by janitorial companies NYCHA has contracted to restore developments damaged in superstorm Sandy. Like him, many are NYCHA tenants.

Although many New Yorkers lost income because of the storm, the hard-hit NYCHA buildings already had an unemployment problem: A 2011 report by the Community Service Society estimated unemployment in public housing in 2010 reached 27 percent — three times what it was in 2008.

Looking like an urban astronaut in the wan hallway light, Timmons, 21, spent the day checking for mold and scrubbing bathrooms. He was happy to help his neighbors, but was even happier to have a paycheck — he'd been out of work for a year.

Quoted

"I feel good about myself now because I'm actually working, and everybody's proud of me." TIMMONS

Now, working seven days a week at $12.50 an hour, he hoped he could go back to school and pitch in for the rent his mother paid.

Brooklyn has the state's fourth-highest unemployment, 9.9 percent in October.

So for these workers, post-disaster cleanup has meant a long-awaited steady paycheck — at least while it lasted.

KATIA SAVCHUK FOR CITY LIMITS

'Nothing but mold'

Along with more than 100 other teams of about 10 people each, Timmons and his crew have spent the last three weeks removing trash, cleaning common spaces and scrubbing mold and mildew in storm-damaged areas.

Tall and thin, Timmons wore goggles over his glasses and answered to his new nickname, "Slim." A supervisor called him over to clean a bathroom in a seventh-floor unit that a young couple shared with two cats.

"It's like nothing but mold everywhere," he said. He sprayed the black fungus with blue fluid and scrubbed for half an hour, but the contamination had gotten inside the ceiling.

CITY LIMITS

In the news

Quinn delays bill she supports, Bloomberg opposes

NEW YORK. Council Speaker Christine Quinn is delaying a vote on a campaign finance bill that she supports, and which Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a supporter of her, opposes. The bill would make some funds between unions and politicians not count toward the politician's campaign spending, and is meant to compensate for state legislation that Quinn, who is running for mayor, says will get in the way of unions and other organizations communicating with members on political matters. Quinn says the delay will allow review of the legislation to ensure it does not subvert campaign finance regulations, as Bloomberg alleges.

METRO/DT

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News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ F/A-18 Hornet warplanes

US military to boost Philippines presence, China army to be prepared

MANILA. U.S. and Philippine officials are expected to agree on an increase in the number of U.S. military ships, aircraft and troops rotating through the Philippines, Filipino officials said, as tensions simmer with China over its maritime claims.

Senior U.S. and Philippine officials met yesterday in Manila to discuss strengthening security and economic ties at a time of growing tension over China's aggressive sovereignty claims over vast stretches of the disputed South China Sea.

Philippine defense and diplomatic officials said they expected to see more U.S. ships, aircraft and troops for training exercises and disaster and relief operations. **REUTERS**

Pollution limits renewed with UN push for climate aid

NEW YORK. The international effort to curb global warming inched forward with an agreement that extends pollution limits under the Kyoto Protocol and calls for work on a mechanism that would pay aid for climate-related disasters.

The deal endorsed by ministers from more than 190 nations in Doha yesterday restrains fossil fuel emissions from the European Union to Australia.

It also for the first time suggests a channel for richer countries to compensate poorer ones for "loss and damage" from rising sea levels and drought. **BLOOMBERG**

North Korea launches rocket, raising nuclear arms stakes

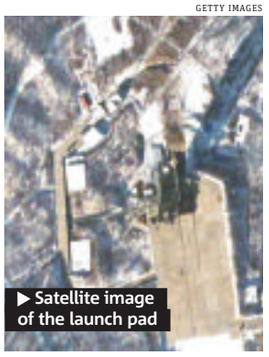
North Korea successfully launched a rocket yesterday, boosting the credentials of its new leader and stepping up the threat the isolated and impoverished state poses to opponents.

The rocket, which North Korea says put a weather satellite into orbit, has been labeled by the United States, South Korea and Japan as a test of technology that could one day deliver a nuclear warhead capable of hitting targets as far away as the continental United States.

"The satellite has entered the planned orbit," a North Korean television news reader clad in traditional Korean garb announced, after which the station played patriotic songs with the lyrics "Chosun [Korea] does what it says."

The rocket was launched just before 10 a.m., according to defense officials in South Korea and Japan, and was more successful than a rocket launched in April that flew for less than two minutes.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Satellite image of the launch pad

North Korea followed what it said was a similar successful launch in 2009 with a nuclear test that prompted the U.N. Security Council to stiffen sanctions that it originally imposed in 2006 after the North's first nuclear test.

US reaction

▶ **The United States condemned the launch as "provocative"** and a breach of U.N. rules, while Japan's U.N. envoy called for a Security Council meeting. However, diplomats say further tough sanctions are unlikely from the Security Council as China, the North's only major ally, will oppose them.

North Korea is banned from developing nuclear and missile-related technology under U.N. resolutions, although Kim Jong-un, the youthful head of state who took power a year ago, is believed to have continued the hermit nation's "military first" programs put in place by his late father, Kim Jong-il. **REUTERS**

Kim family celebration

North Korea hailed the launch as celebrating the prowess of all three members of the Kim family to rule since it was founded in 1948.

"At a time when great yearnings and reverence for Kim Jong-il pervade the whole country, its scientists and technicians brilliantly carried out his behests to launch a scientific and technological satellite in 2012, the year marking the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung," its KCNA news agency said. Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather, was North Korea's first leader.

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In the news

Whitney Houston beats Gangnam Style as top Google search

SAN FRANCISCO. Whitney Houston, who died in February, edged past "Gangnam Style," "Hurricane Sandy" and "iPad 3" to top the list of global trending searches in 2012, according to Google Inc.'s annual review of popular queries.

Houston, famous for such songs as "Greatest Love of All" and "I Will Always Love You," was at the top of the list. Searches for "Gangnam Style," a music video clip by Korean singing artist Psy — with a record 930 million YouTube views — came in second. Grabbing the No. 3 spot was "Hurricane Sandy," followed by "iPad 3" and then "Diablo 3" video game. **BLOOMBERG**

Legendary Indian sitarist Ravi Shankar dead at 92

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Shankar

The Sitarist and composer Ravi Shankar, who helped introduce the sitar to the Western world through his collaborations with The Beatles, died in Southern California on Tuesday, his family said. He was 92.

Shankar, a three-time Grammy winner with legendary appearances at the 1967 Monterey Festival and at Woodstock, had been in fragile health for several years and last Thursday underwent surgery, his family said in a statement.

"Although it is a time for sorrow and sadness, it is also a time for all of us to give thanks and to be grateful that we were able to have him as a part of our lives," the family said. "He will live forever in our hearts and in his music."

In India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's office posted a Twitter message calling Shankar a "national treasure and global ambassador of India's cultural heritage."

"An era has passed away with ... Ravi Shankar. The nation joins me to pay tributes to his unsurpassable genius, his art and his humility," the Indian premier added.

Shankar had suffered from upper respiratory and heart issues over the past year and underwent heart-valve replacement surgery last week at a hospital in San Diego, south of Los Angeles.

The surgery was successful but he was unable to recover.

"Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the surgeons and doctors taking care of him, his body was not able to withstand the strain of the surgery. We were at his side when he passed away," his wife Sukanya and daughter Anoushka said.

Shankar lived in both India and the United States. He is also survived by another daughter, Grammy-winning singer Norah Jones, as well as three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. **REUTERS**

Last performance was with daughter

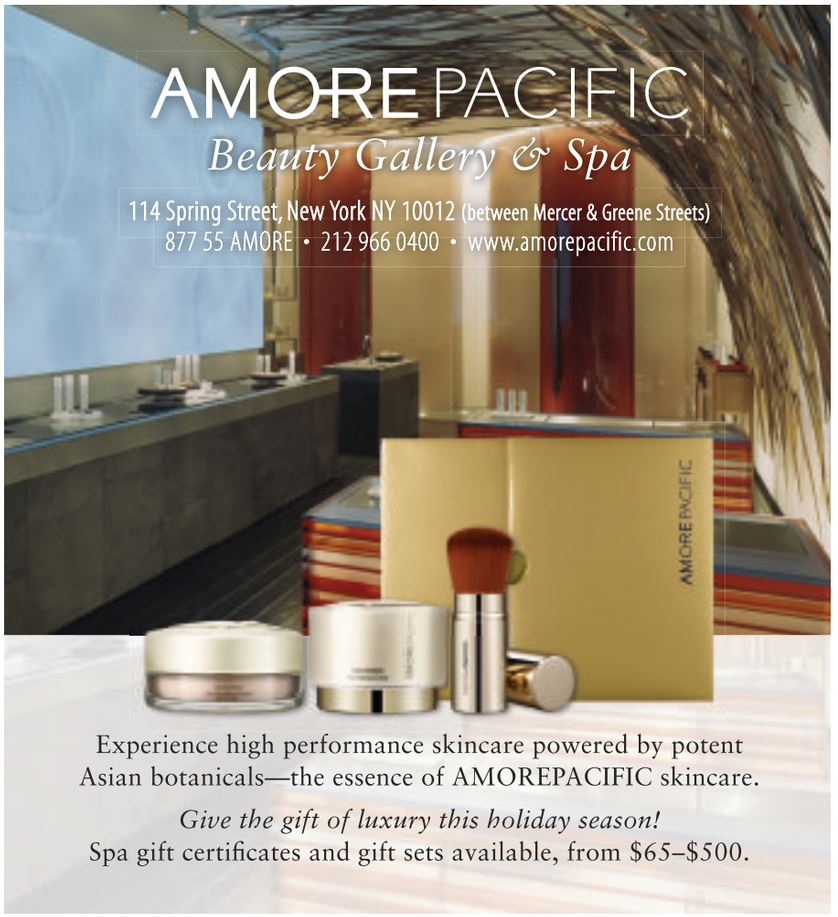
Shankar performed his last concert with his daughter Anoushka on Nov. 4 in Long Beach, California, the statement said. The night before he underwent surgery, he was nominated for a Grammy for his latest album "The Living Room Sessions, Part 1."

Metro Magic toy drive

1 Log on to **www.metro.us** and look for the Metro Magic logo at the top left.

2 One click on the logo will take you to a "wish list" we have set up via a secure link on **Toysrus.com**. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested, with more added daily.

▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office **(120 Broadway, sixth floor, New York, NY 10271).** It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children. **METRO**



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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

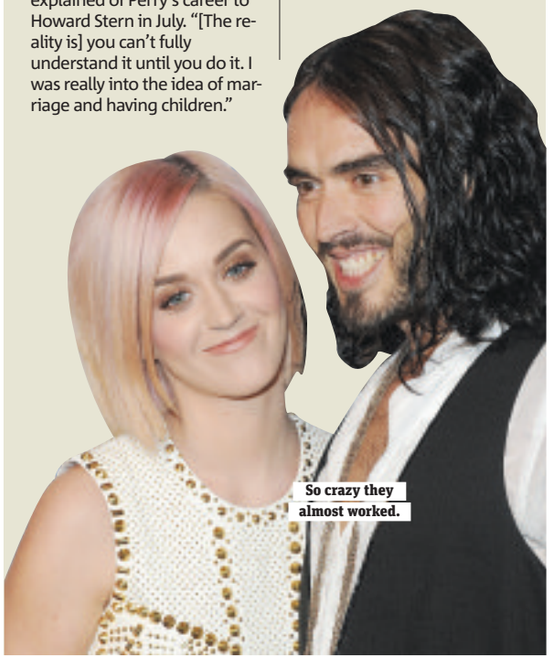
Celebrity divorces of 2012: A retrospective

Yesterday, we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012 (aw, new love!) Today we review 2012's divorces (boo, dead love!)

Katy Perry and Russell Brand

Announcement: Dec. 30 (So this was technically in 2011, but the fallout was in 2012; work with me here, folks.)
Length of marriage: 14 months
Reason: "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand explained of Perry's career to Howard Stern in July. "[The reality is] you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children."

Translation: The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.
Contention level: Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with him. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau **John Mayer.**



So crazy they almost worked.

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett

Announcement: Sept. 6
Length of marriage: 9 years
Reason: Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.
Contention level: Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.

Tina Simpson and Joe Simpson

Announcement: They filed on Sept. 24; TMZ broke the news on Oct. 24.
Length of marriage: 34 years
Reason: Well, the divorce papers say, "The marriage has become insupportable because of discord or conflict of personalities." But the National Enquirer says it's because Simpson, a former youth minister, is gay — and even has a boyfriend. Whoa.
Contention level: Awkward. If you were Tina Simpson, wouldn't you feel funny inside?

Heidi Klum and Seal

Announcement: Jan. 23
Length of marriage: 7 years
Reason: Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."

Contention level: High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated $70 million fortune.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise

Announcement: June 29
Length of marriage: 5 years
Reason: Cruise was apparently blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly reported that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.
Contention level: Medium. The divorce was fast and furious. Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kristin Chenoweth wants to see a scary movie, Michelle Trachtenberg has a new life philosophy, Lea Michele is keeping busy and Russell Brand is flirting.

@KChenoweth
No one will see Paranormal activity 4 with me.

@RealMichelleT
What would the Dowager Countess do?

@msleamichele
Another great day of work today at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow!! Xoxo

@rustyrockets
"@JonahHill: Ok so I've decided I'm going to get married soon , I'm just not sure to who yet." I'm free.

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Dental Gold Items	Up To	$800	Cuff Links	Up To	$1,500
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Scrap Gold & Platinum	Bring in for Quote		Rings	Up To	$50,000
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HEWLETT	DEER PARK	MYRTLE AVE
BETHPAGE	FOREST HILLS	SUNSET PARK

ALL LOCATIONS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Celebrities in Santa hats: A retrospective

1: Alex Rodriguez donned Old Saint Nick's cap in 2005 at a holiday party he hosted at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami.

2: Last Thursday, a festive **Holly Madison** shopped for toys for her annual "Holly Jolly Christmas Toy Drive" to benefit Toys For Tots and The Salvation Army in Las Vegas.

3: Sean "P. Diddy" Combs went Santa Claus hard in 2003 at a fundraiser to benefit Safe Horizon, which helps victims of crime and abuse, at Rock Center Cafe in New York City.

4: Audrina Patridge went for a sexy Santa look while at a holiday giveaway event last year in Hollywood.

5: Katy Perry was a rock 'n' roll Santa at the Y100 Jingle Ball at BankAtlantic Center in 2010 in Sunrise, Fla.

6: Rachael Ray posed with her monogrammed Santa hat during a book singing at Sur La Table in San Jose, Calif. in 2007.

7: Jennifer Love Hewitt lent a helping hand at the Los Angeles Mission on Dec. 24, 2010 in Los Angeles.

1: JOHN PARRA/WIREIMAGE
1: JEFF R. BOTTARI/WIREIMAGE
1: J. COUNTESS/WIREIMAGE FOR CHRISTIAN CASEY LLC
1: MICHAEL TRAN/FILMMAGIC
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10 REASONS TO HEAD OUT TO THE SHIRE

Must-see

1 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey' Peter Jackson's prequel to his wildly successful "The Lord of the Rings" franchise opens with the first of three films detailing the lives of Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey as they embark on a quest to take back The Lonely Mountain for the exiled dwarves. Shot in 3-D at a higher frame rate than the usual 24 frames per second, the film promises a more absorbing, immersive cinematic experience.

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Martin Freeman, as hobbit Bilbo Baggins, leaves his home in the Shire in part one of this prequel to "The Lord of the Rings" films, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

2 'Playing for Keeps' The latest Gerard Butler rom-com follows a former soccer star (Butler) who tries to salvage his relationship with his young son when he is asked to coach his soccer team. He's a hit with the kids, and the moms aren't complaining either.

3 'Killing Them Softly' This grimy underworld drama follows some fools who rip off a mobster's card game and must answer to an uncompromising enforcer (Brad Pitt).

4 'The Collection' The masterminds of the "Saw" franchise reappear with a new Svengali of torture games: a hooded man who kidnaps a girl and takes her to his elaborate maze of killing machines.

5 'Hitchcock' Sir Anthony Hopkins disappears into the fat suit of Alfred Hitchcock in this film that depicts the making of the suspense master's most widely known film, "Psycho," and his relationship with his creative partner and wife, Alma.

6 'Life of Pi' Ang Lee's latest effort, about a young man adrift at sea with only a tiger for company, offers dazzling 3-D visuals and plenty of Oscar buzz.

7 'Rise of the Guardians' Alec Baldwin and Chris Pine loan their voices to this animated feature that imagines our beloved mythical figures banding together to protect children from a villain.

8 'The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2' Vampire husband and wife Edward and Bella are on a mission to save their spawn from the evil Volturi.

9 'Anna Karenina' Keira Knightley stars in this gauzy adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's celebrated novel about a married socialite.

10 'Silver Linings Playbook' Bradley Cooper stars as a mentally unstable man who finds himself spending time with an equally strange woman (Jennifer Lawrence).

METRO

TV watch list

'Glee'

COMEDY. "Glee" pays homage to "Love Actually" as four holiday-themed storylines intertwine — minus one involving Andrew Lincoln. Boo. **Midseason finale, 9 p.m., Fox**

'The Vampire Diaries'

DRAMA. Which supernatural creature will ruin the town's Winter Wonderland-themed party? A vampire? Vampire hunter? Werewolf? Hybrid? Witch? Professor guy who is inevitably something other than human? **Midseason finale, 8 p.m., The CW**

'The Big Bang Theory'

COMEDY. A game of Dungeons & Dragons dredges up Christmas memories for Sheldon. **Midseason finale, 8 p.m., CBS**

'Scandal'

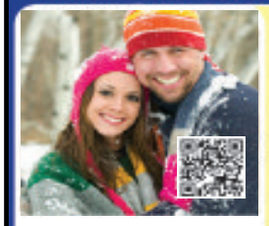
DRAMA. Secret investigations and "shocking betrayal" are all in a day's work for Olivia and her team as they investigate an assassination attempt on the president. **Midseason finale, 10:02 p.m., ABC**

AMBER RAY

▶ "Glee" takes on "Love Actually" in a holiday-themed episode.

EDDY CHEN/FOX

THE SMILE YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!



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THE RUNDOWN

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Get your ho-ho-ho on at Saturday's SantaCon 2012.

POP-UPS

#NYANCATCITY
Tonight through Sunday, various locations, free
The Internet is invading IRL. The New York Art Department's #NYANCATCITY fest is based out of hip SoHo gallery The Hole and encompasses art exhibitions, panels on the Internet and culture, plus a few totally awesome parties featuring completely appropriate Internet-based artists. **LEAH TAYLOR**

ART

Shaka
Tomorrow through Jan. 11, 2013, Gallery Nine5, 24 Spring St., free
French street artist Shaka is apparently a mainstay of the Parisian graffiti scene, and the fascinating thing about his more recent work is its three-dimensional nature — it's built out in bas-relief from the canvas onto which it's painted, blurring the line between painting and sculpture. **TOM HAWKING**

NIGHTLIFE

Impose 10 Year Anniversary Photo Party
Tonight, 8-11, Secret Project Robot, 389 Melrose St., free
To celebrate 10 years of shooting everybody and their up-and-coming mom in the Brooklyn music scene, Impose is taking over Secret Project Room to show off some of the best snapshots and give guests free vodka. **JASON DIAMOND**

Pitchfork Occupy Sandy Benefit
Tomorrow, 8 p.m. to midnight, Saint Vitus Bar, 1120 Manhattan Ave., Greenpoint, $12
Pitchfork chips in to help out Occupy Sandy by putting together a lineup of two local favorites that nobody is sick of seeing, Widowspeak and The Men, as well as the Swedish band Lust for Youth. **JD**

HOLIDAY

What the Dickens? Third Annual 'Christmas Carol' Marathon Reading
Saturday, 1 p.m., Housing Works Bookstore & Cafe, 126 Crosby St., free
This year, Tea Obreht, Jami Attenberg, Julie Klam, Emma Straub, Justin Taylor and many others take turns telling the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's night of hanging with Christmas ghosts. **JD**

SantaCon 2012
Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., location TBA, free
Grab your best Santa outfit (creativity encouraged but not required) and two nonperishable food items for the food drive and prepare to unleash your inner Kris Kringle with hundreds of like-minded folks for an afternoon of chaos, crazy carol singing and the occasional cocktail. **MINDY BOND**

3rd Ward Handmade Holiday Craft Fair
Saturday, noon-6 p.m., 3rd Ward, 195 Morgan Ave., Bushwick, free
Support local small businesses and also get holiday gifts for friends and family that they might not be able to find anywhere but Brooklyn, like great and unique DIY items from jewelry to art. **JD**

Holiday

A Murray Little Christmas with Mr. Murray Hill

Saturday, 6:30 p.m., Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St., $20-$50
Spend a saucy Christmas with NYC's No. 1 drag king, Mr. Murray Hill. Expect slapstick skits, dirty jokes, dirty songs, dirty dancing and plenty of holiday cheer in this grand seasonal tradition. **LT**

THEATER

'Golden Boy'
Through March 31, 2013, The Belasco Theatre, 111 W. 44 St., $37-$127
This classic tale chronicles a young man as he struggles to choose between two careers: concert violinist and professional boxer. **ALYSSA ALPINE**

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Songza

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▶ Stevie Wonder

Songza Christmas oldies

Last week, we offered a holiday playlist with a reggae slant, but this week we thought we'd give you something a little bit more practical for when your parents are visiting. The playlist at **www.metro.us/songza** and **www.songza.com/discover/culture/christmas/christmas-oldies-songza** takes you from Phil Spector's sleigh-bell-ornamented Wall of Sound to Motown and Stax Records' soulful and funky covers. And you'll even get a weird version of Stevie Wonder, pictured, playing "Ave Maria" with a signature harmonica solo in the middle. It's so inappropriate for the song that it actually works.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company, which calls itself a music concierge service, offers thousands of expertly curated playlists for free on the Web, iPhone and iPad. Each week, Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists as you enter into the weekend.

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PARTY TIME!

Cocktail season is in full effect
Glam looks for all your upcoming holiday shindigs

1 A classic silhouette gets some sexy sheer slashes. **Elin Kling for Marciano Karla Midi Dress, $248, www.guessbymarciano.com**

2 Can you say life of the party? **Parker Fringe Dress, $385, www.piperlime.com**

3 Emerald is, after all, Pantone's 2013 color of the year. **Zara Fitted Dress Frill Shoulders, $90, www.zara.com**

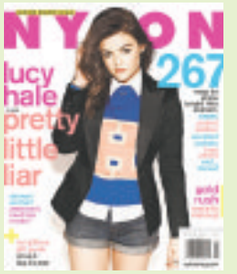
4 Don't feel like dealing with stockings this year? A versatile tuxedo suit can be sexy with a low-cut blouse — or, er, no blouse — or tres chic with a white button-down. **Topshop Premium Satin Trim Tux Jacket and Suit Trousers, $300, www.topshop.com**

5 The plunging neckline in this mini red number is covered up thanks to a feminine mesh insert, making it as appropriate for the office soiree as cocktails with your gang. **Three Floor Bad Girl Dress, $308, www.shopbop.com**

6 Bring on the office holiday party! **ERIN by Erin Fetherston Fitted Ponte Peplum Dress in Ruby, $275, www.bloomingdales.com**

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Sales in the city



Holiday pop-up stores

NYLON Magazine
Through Friday, noon-7 p.m., 72 Gansevoort St.
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Refinery29's Tinseltown Bazaar
Friday & Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Saturday, noon-7 p.m. Openhouse Gallery Space 201 Mulberry St.
The fashion, lifestyle and news site has expanded its "Live from Tinseltown" experience with a new holiday pop-up. The shop will feature merchandise from brands such as Chloe + Isabel and Dannijo, as well as a braid bar and makeup touch-up stations. METRO

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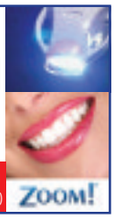

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▶ We're willing to bet that Will and Kate ask each other nicely.

Quoted

"When you make a request, however, it gives your partner the freedom to make their own decision about the task at hand and lead them to, hopefully, decide to follow through because they want to please you."

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Get your partner to meet your needs

Shrink Wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Prince William canceled an important appearance on Sunday to stay home with his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, while she dealt with a second round of severe morning sickness. Many times you want your partner to support you, but work or personal needs take priority. So how did she get him to stay home, and how can you get your partner to meet your needs? Sometimes, it is all in how you ask.

You know what it's like to have something demanded of you, right? From the time we were little kids and we were told to wash our hands and look people in the eyes, to our romantic relationships when we're told to get the dry cleaning or to make that dinner reservation, we know it doesn't feel very good. If anything, it puts you on the defensive and makes you not want to do something. So imagine how your partner feels when you tell them to clean the house or take the dog for a walk. Who wants to do something nice for someone when they are forced to do it?

In my book, "What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship," I talk about this as being one of the important rules of engagement. Learn how to make a request rather than a demand. To put it simply, ask nicely. This will tell your partner that you respect them, and will give them the opportunity to make a choice. When you make a demand of your partner, they often feel manipulated and controlled by you because they feel they have to do what you are telling them to do. So rather than being cooperative, they'll be resentful. When you make a request, however, it gives your partner the freedom to make their own decision about the task at hand and lead them to, hopefully, decide to follow through because they want to please you. It gives your partner the chance to take ownership of whatever it is you are asking of them.

In the end, it allows you to have a conversation about what you want to get done, and offers the opportunity to have a give and take. It also lets you move away from a parent-child dynamic and into an equal partnership, which is where every healthy and happy relationship should be.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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holiday gift guide

Trends under the tree: Top gift picks for 2012

Still haven't finished (or started) your holiday shopping? Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, spends her day forecasting gift trends She has an expert eye for finding the perfect gift for every person and is sharing her thoughts on presents this season

GIFTS.COM

Holmes

For women

The broach is back, ladies. A few years ago, scarves were popular accessories for women. Now it's all about the elaborate pins, says Holmes. Wear one alone or wear a collection on a jacket.

Holmes also recommends the **Sephora Collection Color Blockbuster Makeup Sampler ($49.50, www.sephora.com)**. "Any woman who loves Sephora will love this gift of 148 formulas that she can use to create infinite looks," she says.

For men

Forget buying the guys in your life socks, ties or new cologne. Scout gear is very popular for men this year, says Holmes. "I think guys are getting really into tough, survivor-type things," she explains. "Even if they're not outdoorsy, they like to look like it." Holmes' pick is a flask by the thermos company Stanley — perfect to take camping or tailgating.

Stanley Classic Stainless Steel Flask, $18, www.amazon.com

Think local

Holmes says products made in the U.S.A. are very trendy. Websites such as Etsy.com have made purchasing local products much easier. "People are paying more attention to where things are made," she says.

Budget correctly

In addition to having a shopping list when hitting the stores, Holmes says to keep your budget top of mind. "Remember: Your shopping budget is not a goal," Holmes says. "You don't have to reach that number."

For techies

Having the newest gadget isn't enough — how you accessorize it is what really matters. A big trend this holiday season is toys that work with touch-screen phones and tablets to make the gaming experience more realistic. "There's an iPad dock that turns it into a pinball machine," Holmes says. "It's totally addicting."

Duo Pinball iPad Controller, $50, www.amazon.com

For the person who already has it all

Some people are impossible to shop for; Holmes recommends brainstorming ahead of time for these difficult folks — and not letting green be your guide. "Think about the person's personality and know you don't have to spend a lot of money on people who have everything," Holmes says.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

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Vincent van Gogh. *The Starry Night* (detail). 1889. Oil on canvas. Acquired through the Lillie P. Bliss Bequest. © 2012 The Museum of Modern Art, New York

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holiday gift guide

Gifts for the dapper dude

You love your style aficionado's taste And like his cozy sweaters and button-down shirts, these are gifts you'll want to borrow frequently

1. Who are we kidding — this weekender is for both of you. **Joseph Abboud Collection Navy Wool Overnight Bag with Umbrella Holder, $350,** www.josephabboud.com

2. The world's first clear Anejo proudly sits on his bar. **Don Julio 70, $70, Stores nationwide**

3. This handsome knife with a Brazilian rosewood handle gets nautical. **Rosewood Folding Knife, $45,** www.brookfarm generalstore.com

4. Let the complements roll. **Onasis Chester bow tie, $38,** www.onassisclothing.com

5. For when he's not wearing a hoodie. **Massimo Dutti Two-Tone Wool Scarf, $55, www.massimodutti.com**

6. This set of 12 coasters features factoids, recipes and funny expressions all dedicated to his fave drink. **Teroforma Beverage Coasters, $16,** www.tero forma.com TINA CHADHA

7 Unlike his regular boat shoes, these new Sperry Top-Siders were hand-stitched by artisans in Maine. Prepare to hear that a lot. $300, www.sperrytopsider.com.

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Gifts for the gardener

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Her salads and cocktails are about to get an upgrade. These seed bombs will grow cinnamon basil, lemon mint and lime basil. VisualLingual Exotic Herbs Seed Bombs, $7, www.visualingual.com

Stephanie Amos Speckled Burst Planter, $40, www.leifshop.com

Like a handbag for her plants. Farrahsit Porcelain and Tan Leather Hanging Planter, $45, Farrahsit on www.etsy.com

This watering set by heritage garden brand Haws includes a traditional watering can (in white!) and brass mister. Someone's plants are about to be really happy. Haws Indoor Watering Set, $70, www.gardeners.com

This twine collection includes eight spools in different colors perfect for supporting plants or just, you know, making bows. Nutscene Jute Twine Set, $15, www.williams-sonoma.com

Small Spells Brushstroke Planter, $40, www.leifshop.com

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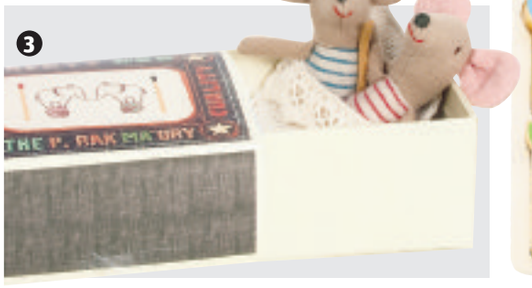
holiday gift guide

Gifts for the little ones

1 Your very own winter bear: Try not to squeeze him too hard. L.L. Bean Infants' Hi-Loft Fleece Coveralls, $50, www.llbean.com

2



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We won't judge if you want to put them to bed early and play with these

2. OK — where exactly was this dollhouse when we were growing up? **Modern Dollhouse Collection, $25-$349,** www.landofnod.com

3. We would like to take a day off of work to watch over these adorable characters. **Maileg Newborn Twin Mice in Box, $30,** www.mysweetmuffin.com

4. Down the road, take credit for your niece or nephew's good grades. **Skip Hop Alphabet Zoo Match and Play Puzzle, $25,** www.amazon.com

6. Stick it to them with a festive chocolate pop. **Edward Marc Rudolph Pop, $2,** www.edwardmarc.com

7. Don't forget about your favorite child. **Ralph Lauren Home Holiday Riding Coat, $99,** www.ralphlauren.com

5 Peppa & Friends: Bicycling Together, $7, Toys R Us

6

7

8 An affordable option for their "I love firetrucks" phase. Home Goods vintage riding fire truck, $60, www.homegoods.com

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BROOKLYN HOOPS WINTER FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY HONDA

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KWANZAA STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

(FOR ALL AGES):

Sun, Dec 16, 1pm

$5/ Free for members

KWANZAA:

UNIVERSAL AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM ENSEMBLE

Sun, Dec 16, 2:30pm

$16/$12 Members/$12 Children/ $10 Member Children

THE NUTCRACKER

Sat, Dec 22, 1 & 3pm

$16/$12 Members/$12 Children/ $10 Member Children

FOR MORE INFO GO TO **flushingtownhall.org** or call **(718) 463-7700 x222**

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holiday gift guide

Gifts for ladies in your life

She's the most important person on your list — and the most difficult to shop for No pressure or anything We'll get you started with sweet somethings and sparkling extras

1. Swarovski crystals give this edgy bracelet a glam twist. **Vita Fede Mini Titan Crystal Spike Bracelet, $358, www.intermixonline.com**

2. Better than a pony: Exotic ice cream sandwiches and some old faves — we're looking at you, oatmeal cream — dressed up in macaroon cookies. **Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream Sandwich Collection, $38 for 5, www.jenis.com**

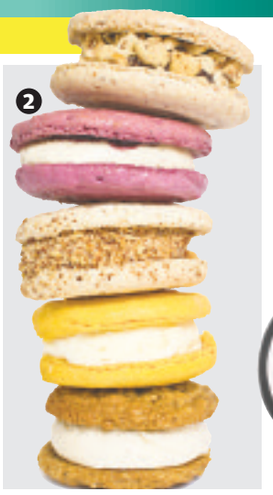
3. Even after a few glasses of wine, they can't miss these on the table. **Kate Spade Paper Gem Coasters, $20, www.katespade.com**

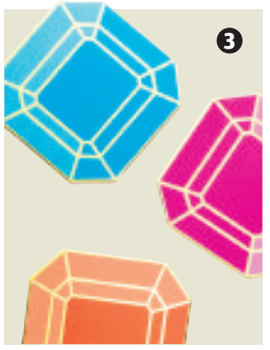
4. MAC's gorgeous holiday compacts just make us want to throw on black eyeliner and four-inch heels. **All For Glamour Touch Up Kit, $40, www.maccosmetics.com**

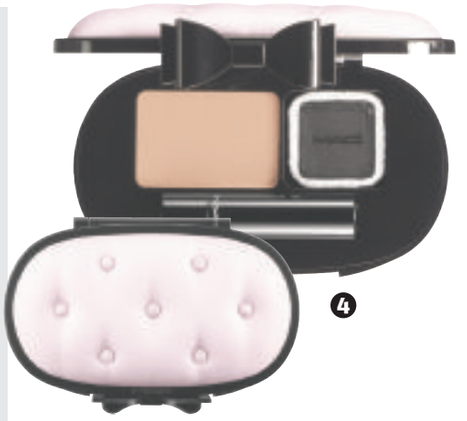
5. A box this pretty doesn't need any packaging. **Fresh Sake and Seaberry Spa Retreat, $75, www.fresh.com**

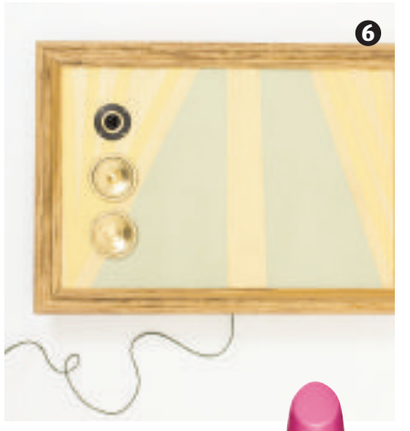
6. Techie speakers just aren't her thing, but dance parties are. **Mikal Hameed Gallery Speakers, $400-$650, www.anthropologie.com**

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us









This chic mini lipstick provides a full-size impact. AERIN lipstick in Lolabird, $30, www.aerin.com

HOLIDAY INSTANT SAVINGS

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Outfit Includes...
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OUTFIT INCLUDES 18-55mm VR NIKKOR® LENS, CAMERA CASE AND DVD

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Outfit Includes...
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10x Wide Optical Zoom

$129.95
After $70 Instant Savings*

New! COOLPIX® L610

14x Wide Optical Zoom

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After $100 Instant Savings**

New! COOLPIX® L810

26x Wide Optical Zoom

$199.95
After $80 Instant Savings*

New! COOLPIX® P310

4.2x Wide Optical Zoom

$229.95
After $100 Instant Savings*

New! COOLPIX® S9300

18x Wide Optical Zoom

$199.95
After $150 Instant Savings*

COOLPIX® AW100

5x Wide Optical Zoom

$249.95
After $100 Instant Savings*

WATERPROOF, SHOCKPROOF, FREEZEPROOF.†

New! COOLPIX® P510

42x Wide Optical Zoom

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7.1x Wide Optical Zoom

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After $50 Instant Savings*

NIKKOR® LENSES

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55-200mm DX VR
Zoom-NIKKOR Lens

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55-300mm DX VR
NIKKOR Lens

Was $399.95
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AFTER $150 Instant Savings*

Purchase the D3100, D3200, D5100, D90, D7000 or D300s together with any of the below lenses and receive the following Instant Savings:

18-200mm DX VR II
NIKKOR Lens

Was $849.95
NOW
$599.95
AFTER $250 Instant Savings*

85mm DX VR
Micro-NIKKOR Lens

Was $529.95
NOW
$429.95
AFTER $100 Instant Savings*

Purchase the D7000, D300s, D600, D800, D800E, D4 or D3x together with any of the following lenses and receive the following Instant Savings:

70-300mm VR
Zoom-NIKKOR Lens

Was $589.95
NOW
$389.95
AFTER $200 Instant Savings*

24-85mm VR
NIKKOR Lens

Was $599.95
NOW
$499.95
AFTER $100 Instant Savings*

28-300mm VR
NIKKOR Lens

Was $1049.95
NOW
$899.95
AFTER $150 Instant Savings*

24-70mm
NIKKOR Lens

Was $1889.95
NOW
$1689.95
AFTER $200 Instant Savings*

70-200mm VR II
NIKKOR Lens

Was $2399.95
NOW
$2199.95
AFTER $200 Instant Savings*

Nikon Speedlights

Purchase the D3100, D3200, D5100, D90, D7000, D300s, D600, D800, D800E, D4, or D3x together with any of the following speedlights and receive the following Instant Savings:

SB-700
AF Speedlight

Was $329.95
NOW
$299.95
AFTER $30 Instant Savings*

SB-910
AF Speedlight

Was $549.95
NOW
$499.95
AFTER $50 Instant Savings*

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† Specifications and Compatibility: OS: Smartphones, Tablets: Android™ OS versions 2.3 to 4.0. iPhone and iPad: iOS versions 4.1 to 5.1. WiFi: 11 b/g/n (maximum range approximately 10-15m/33-49ft). The Connect to S800c Application must be installed on the smart device before it can be used with the COOLPIX S800c. The application can be downloaded on Google Play™ on your Android device running Android 2.3 or higher. For the iOS mobile platform, the application can be downloaded free of charge from the iTunes® online store for use with iOS versions 4.1 to 5.1. Specifications and equipment are subject to change without any notice or obligation on the part of the manufacturer. September 2012. Android and Google Play are trademarks of Google, Inc. iPhone, iPad and iTunes are registered trademarks of Apple, Inc.
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† For limitations regarding waterproof, freezeproof and shockproof attributes, go to http://nikonusa.com/AW100info.
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holiday gift guide

Gifts for ladies, cont.

1. Flower crowns are for the summer — she has this little gem until then. **Chloe + Isabel Crystal Strands Stretch Headband, $58,** www.chloeandisabel.com

2. Serve in style. **Teroforma Anise Double-Sided Serving Board, $40,** www.teroforma.com

3. She'll live in these cute cotton pajamas which come in nature-inspired block prints. **Marigot Collection Lorient Short Pajama Set, $105,** www.marigotcollection.com

4. Always be surrounded by Rodin's gorgeous signature jasmine/neroli scent. **Rodin Olio Lusso Scented Candle, $125,** www.oliolusso-shop.com

5. Edgy evening bag — a must for the holidays. **Forever 21 Studded Crossbody Bag, $28,** www.forever21.com

6. The perfect stocking stuffer. **NARS Andy Warhol Nail Set, $35,** www.narscosmetics.com

7. Case-Mate partnered with artisan leather producer Vaja to create what we're going to call the Chanel of tablet covers. **From $210,** www.vajacases.com

8. Besides the pure joy of receiving fresh flowers on the regular, this subscription service provides a weekly video teaching your flower-lover how to arrange her blooms. **H.Bloom, $29 per bouquet,** www.hbloom.com

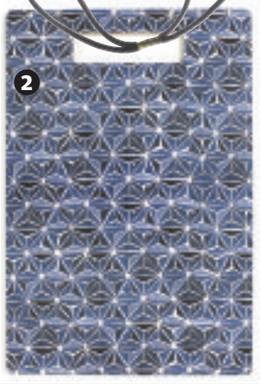
9. Julia Chiang's signed, limited-edition **All For You Print** says it all. **$125,** www.exhibitiona.com

10. Tired of convincing her to eat healthy? Send her a box of seasonal produce direct from **The Chef's Garden** farm to her door. **$162 for a 6-month subscription,** www.farmerjonesfarm.com

11. It's not the bike she'll have to chain. **Sawako Furuno Leopard Helmet, $150,** www.adeline adeline.com

12. Colorful cashmere — her new winter BFF. **Yarnz Diamond and Florals Scarf, $130,** www.beckleyboutique.com

TINA CHADHA



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Letters

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A public menace on two wheels

RE: "THE UNIVERSAL BLIND SPOT: BICYCLISTS" (METRO, DEC. 11) As much as I have observed drivers being ignorant or arrogant or careless, and I myself have nearly gotten hit by cars (not cycling — walking), I would not say that cyclists are blame-free. I have also nearly gotten hit by ignorant, arrogant and careless cyclists and I have observed cyclists "teasing" traffic, asking for an accident. Furthermore, cyclists very rarely stay off sidewalks. I once saw some guy on a motorcycle going on the sidewalk. By the way, a lot of motorcyclists ought to be put on an island with ignorant drivers and let them deal with each other.

LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

I want to take issue with Liz Papi's letter to the editor. I have seen bicyclists do the following:

1. Go right through a red light (during the pedestrian walk light): You are required BY LAW to stop at a red light and WALK your bike across.
2. Hitch onto cars, trucks and bus bumpers: Suicide, just plain suicide.
3. No helmets: Go visit the local ER — and find the bike accidents. No helmet? Go to the morgue.
4. Not in bike lanes: You have your lane, we have ours; stay out of ours, please.
5. Talking on the phone: I am not even going here. It's just plain stupid.
6. Riding on the sidewalk (endangering pedestrians): Like the road isn't enough excitement, so you have to scare the walkers?
7. Do not obey any of the bicyclists rules — not a one: Get the bicyclist rules manual and read it.

And you wonder WHY they get hit by cars, buses and trucks? Because they are no better than the drivers of these vehicles that hit them who are texting, talking on the phone or otherwise involved in something that has nothing to do with driving and paying attention.

Please don't put all the blame on the drivers — in many cases the bicyclists were wrong.

LINDA CARFAGNA, VIA E-MAIL

TPP deal would cost American jobs

Right now, U.S. negotiators are working behind closed doors in Auckland, New Zealand, on a massive agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership that would offshore millions of American jobs and flood us with unsafe imported food.

Corporate interests have special access to the negotiations, while Congress and the public are locked out.

TPP boosters are trying to sell the TPP as a trade agreement that could expand U.S. exports, but recent leaks reveal that actually most of its 29 chapters have little to do with trade and rather would impose limits on government health, safety, labor and environmental standards while granting new rights and powers to large corporations.

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) has introduced the 21st Century Trade Agreements Act to stop rogue trade negotiators from pushing provisions in "free trade" agreements which put the profits of foreign corporations before the wellbeing of the American people.

HOWARD WEISS, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It might be smart to avoid all kinds of financial risk, even if a deal looks like a sure thing. Chances are your conception of it will be overly optimistic.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're more likely to tell others what to do than to do anything yourself. You shouldn't have to be told that this is a sure recipe for dysfunction.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Use a light touch when embellishing a story that you want others to enjoy. If you get in over your head, chances are you'll trip over your own tongue.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Leave that extra cash you've been saving at home if you're going out on the town with your pals. Your ability to prudently manage your resources isn't likely to be at its best.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't rely on any spur-of-the-moment promises made to you. No matter how well meant they might be, reality will have other plans for how things play out.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** A situation that has had an adverse effect on your finances is ready to be rectified. Although it won't be soon enough to suit you and your wallet, at least it'll be over.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Be careful not to get drawn into an arrangement where you could lose more than you could gain. If you plunge in anyway, make tracks as soon as you begin to see this happening.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Don't allow anyone to do your thinking for you, especially in affairs that could affect your reputation and/or status.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't tackle a complicated do-it-yourself project that you lack the experience and/or expertise to take on. This might be one of those times when it's cheaper to pay a professional.

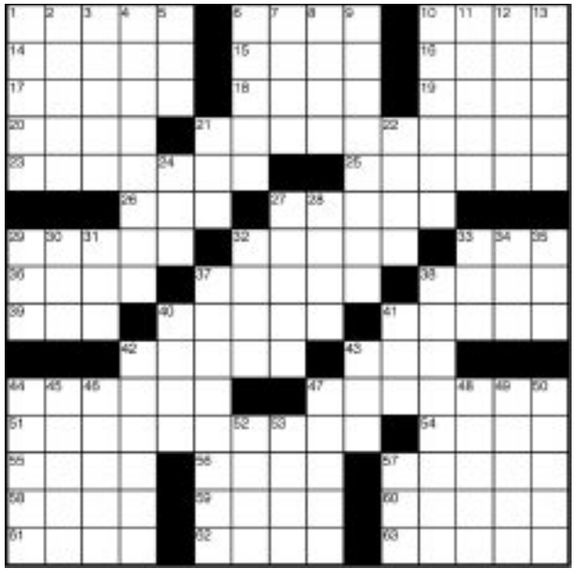
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You could have trouble telling the difference between prudence and extravagance. For example, after a dinner, you might keep the leftover salad but throw away the caviar.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Keeping your priorities in proper order could be a difficult assignment at present. Try not to place far more emphasis on pleasurable pursuits than on productive ones.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Usually, you're the type of person who sees things through to a desirable conclusion, yet you might find it difficult to do so at present. Don't call it quits on anything just because the end is in sight. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Referee, slangily
6 Crevice
10 Entranced
14 Stared rudely
15 McClurg of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"
16 Bushy coif
17 Ph.D. exams
18 Spreadsheet unit
19 Frame of mind
20 Note
21 Tux part
23 Carpet cleaner
25 Bireme or trireme
26 Owed right now
27 Pry open
29 Hard to pin down
32 Eastman invention
33 Tissue layer
36 Battery chemical
37 Zaftig
38 Pump, maybe
39 Guitarist — Paul
40 Less polluted
41 Monarch's time on the throne
42 Rugged country
43 Extinct bird
44 Bye (2 wds.)
47 Daily grind (2 wds.)
51 Mutter, perhaps (2 wds.)
54 Sonny's ex
55 Declaim violently
56 Burnishes
57 Fleece
58 Sandwich cookie
59 No future — —
60 Fluff, as hair
61 Quaker colonist
62 Matures
63 Said further

Down
1 Skyrockets
2 Marsh stalker
3 Accuse
4 Fed the Colt again
5 Circulars
6 Keep happening
7 Footnote term
8 Thin coating
9 Wire
10 Talk aimlessly
11 Run — of (cross)
12 Lying down
13 Winter quaff
21 Passing grade
22 Distress acutely
24 Very, in Veracruz
27 Hunks' dates
28 Dumpster output
29 Coolidge nickname
30 Stretchy bandage
31 Raw recruits
32 Northern Iraqi
33 Sorority letter
34 Captain's journal
35 Ginza gelt
37 Black Sea country
38 Looked high and low
40 Soft color
41 Go bad
42 Chinese dumpling
43 Ticked off
44 Hone a razor
45 Chicago airport
46 Pharaoh's textile
47 Corrodes
48 Down the road
49 Refrain from
50 Goofed
52 Breathing organ
53 Drama prize
57 Depot (abbr.)



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	9	4		3	2		5	1
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2	5			7	9			
				2				
			5	4			1	6
9								4
7	4		1	5		9	3	
5			3					7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	2		8				5	
	9	7			5			
5		8			7	3		
		6	7			5		
	3		6	5	4		8	
		2			9	7		
		5	9			1		3
			1			8	7	
	7				3		4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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food&drink

Hot hot cocoas

Upgrade your Swiss Miss to one of these winter warmers Enjoy them with or without booze

Caledonia Bar
1609 Second Ave., 212-879-0402
Warm up at this Scottish pub with an adult beverage that tips its hat to the homeland: Its Winter Whisky Warmer features Auchentoshan Lowland Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Spanish hot chocolate powder and Scottish double cream.

R Lounge
714 Seventh Ave., 212-261-5200
The restaurant inside the Renaissance New York Times Square Hotel is serving five different types of Belgian hot chocolate for locals and tourists alike, including three seasonal varieties. Top yours off with the chef's homemade marshmallows, fresh fruit and chocolate shavings, and, if you're a grown-up, Grand Marnier, Rum, Franjelico or Bailey's. Bonus: Your purchase comes with a free piece of peppermint bark.

Havana Central
151 W. 46th St., 212-398-7440
2911 Broadway, 212-662-8830
For a spicy sipper, order the Cuban restaurant's Latin hot chocolate with rum. It's flavored with vanilla, cinnamon and a dash of red pepper.

▶ At Delicatessen, your hot chocolate comes with a side of beignets.

Delicatessen
54 Prince St., 212-226-0211
Chef Kate Cowan's hot spiced chocolate — made with star anise, cinnamon sticks and cloves — is served along passion fruit champagne beignets.

The Library Hotel
299 Madison Ave., 212-983-4500
The Chocolate Cherry concoction being served at the hotel's bar, Bookmarks, and bistro, Madison & Vine, adds rum, chocolate liqueur and cherry marnier to the traditional drink.

Ritz Carlton New York, Central Park
50 Central Park S., 212-308-9100
At the Ritz, pair your gourmet hot chocolate — in flavors like Candy Cane Cocoa, Seasonal Chocolate Spice and Raspberry Truffle — with handcrafted s'mores that you'll build yourself at your own private hibachi in the hotel's Star Lounge.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Also try

New Leaf Restaurant & Bar
1 Margaret Corbin Dr. 212-568-5323
Valrhona Chocolate is at the base of executive chef Scott Campbell's creation, and it's topped with a homemade lavender marshmallow.

Cocktail of the week

Hennessy Coco

Make your own spiced-up twist on the favorite.

- 1 ½ oz. Hennessy V.S
- 6 oz. hot chocolate (recipe below)
- ¾ oz. spiced syrup (recipe below)
- 3 drops pure vanilla extract
- Heavy cream, shaved nutmeg and dark chocolate for garnish

Hot chocolate recipe:
- 2 cubes quality 70 percent dark chocolate for baking
- 2 cups 2 percent organic milk

Directions: Add milk to pot over medium heat. Chop chocolate into smaller bits and add to the hot milk, stirring to combine. If you were to do this recipe for drinking by itself, you would need to add some sugar to taste.

Spiced syrup recipe:
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 12 cloves
- 6 allspice pods
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 nutmeg
- 1 star anise pod

Directions: Add all ingredients to a pot over high heat and bring to a boil. Once boiling, remove from heat. Allow to cool before straining off any particulates.

Coco assembly:
Add all liquids except heavy cream to a heat-proof glass. Layer heavy cream over the top to desired amount. Garnish with grated nutmeg and dark chocolate.

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food&drink

Hot chef: Franco Barrio lights up the West Village

Chef Franco Barrio may be classically trained, but at home he eats hot dogs Tip: Don't leave Barrio 47 without trying his popular churros

Executive Chef Franco Barrio has a long list of accomplishments. He trained in Spain, worked for Mario Batali and was the chef at Boqueria and Caliu. Now, he's the mastermind behind the kitchen at Barrio 47 in the West Village, which just started serving brunch. Metro caught up with Barrio to get to know him better.

How did you start cooking?
I started cooking a long, long time ago. Back in Peru my dad was a chef, and every Saturday and Sunday we would make breakfast for the whole family. My dad and I bonded cooking in the kitchen. That's what got me started. Then, I was trained in Spain and then the French Culinary Institute here in New York.

Tell us about your menu.
The menu is very much Mediterranean-influenced. My background is mostly in French and Spanish cuisine, but I also have worked in places that were 100 percent Italian.

The churros are delicious! Why did you put them on the menu?
There are not too many places that do churros. Everybody loves churros! They fly off the menu. We serve them with dulce de leche and melted chocolate, and I sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on top.

What do you eat at home?
Hot dogs.

Really?
I'm a sucker for hot dogs. When I'm alone at my house I microwave hot dogs. I don't go out of my way to feed myself. When I'm cooking with my girlfriend, though, we'll go out of the way to make something nice.

▶ When Franco Barrio isn't manning the stove at Barrio 47 (47 Eighth Ave., 212-255-3900), he's likely at Union Square market or enjoying a hot dog somewhere.

COURTESY OF BARRIO 47

What is it about New York that makes you love cooking here?

I love New York's produce. I love going to the Union Square market. Good produce makes a huge difference in a meal.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

Restaurant notes

Restaurant events

▶ First Annual Cheese Ball
12-3 p.m. & 5-8 p.m., Amnesia NYC, 609 W. 29th St.
Eat all the cheese your heart desires at iAdventure.com's first annual cheese ball this weekend — offering everything from grilled cheese to cheesecake, all made by top chefs and vendors. It's $39 for five courses.
www.iadventure.com

▶ Alobar beer dinner
46-42 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, 718-752-6000
Try beers from Slyfox Brewery of Pennsylvania at Alobar's monthly beer dinner. Enjoy five carefully selected beers along with a five-course dinner for $50 per person.

▶ Cheap drinks at Miranda's
80 Berry St., 718-387-0711
In celebration of its five-year anniversary, Miranda Restaurant is offering $5 cocktails on Monday, like the Strega Amara (Campari, fennel, Strega and prosecco) and the Pantera Rossa (vodka, Aperol and pink grapefruit).

Restaurant news

▶ Free cookie alert!
Christina Tosi of Momofuku Milk Bar fame is giving us her Christmas present a little early: Saturday only, she's working with American Express to take her famous cookies to the streets for free. She and her mom will dole out thousands of signature Milk Bar cookies from a truck stationed around the city at these times and locations:
11-11:45 a.m.: Central Park South — Columbus Circle Area
12:10-12:55 p.m.: Madison Square Park Area
1:20-2:05 p.m.: Union Square — 16th St. & Union Sq. West
2:30-3:15 p.m.: SoHo — Houston St. & Greene St.
3:40-4:25 p.m.: Williamsburg — Bedford Ave. & N. Seventh St.
4:50-5:35 p.m.: Fort Greene Park — Cumberland St. & Dekalb Ave.

EVAN SUNG

▶ Eli Zabar's Challah Menorah

▶ Get in the spirit
Through Jan. 6, you can book the chef's studio at Mediterranean eatery Amali (115 E. 60th St., 212-339-8363) for a "Christmas Carol"-themed dinner that would surely delight Dickens himself. Executive Chef Junior Borges will serve your party a trio of courses to celebrate the past, present and future, with all dishes inspired by lines in the famous Dickens text. Tuck into goose leg confit, poularde in half mourning (a French way of serving chicken, with truffles under the skin), honey-braised chestnuts and other old-timey dishes in a festive setting with antique furnishings and flourishes. $95 for adults, $40 for Tiny Tims (under 12).

▶ Get this: Challah Menorahs at Eli Zabar
Eli Zabar (1411 Third Ave., 212-717-8100) has your Hanukkah centerpiece figured out: Its edible menorahs, made fresh in the bakery, are modeled into nine-branched candelabras. You can also purchase gift baskets that include the challah menorah, kosher crisps, chocolate, candies, nuts and black olive tapenade.

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In the news

Griffin hopeful

Your fantasy season may be saved.

Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III practiced yesterday and said he hopes to play on Sunday against the Browns.

"Sunday night, I thought there was probably no chance that I could play the next week," Griffin told reporters after practice. "And today I feel really good about it, so it just depends on if I continue to progress the way I am." METRO

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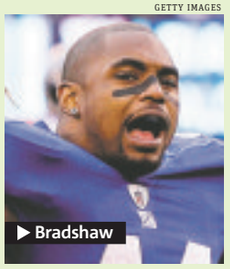

Bradshaw

Bradshaw's availability still in doubt

The good news for the Giants' backfield is that Tom Coughlin hasn't ruled out Ahmad Bradshaw for Sunday. But he hasn't ruled him in either.

"I'm not going to rule him out of anything," Coughlin said yesterday. "I'm not going to talk about the percentages or anything like that. You can speculate on that, knowing full well what the injury is."

Bradshaw sprained his knee against the Saints and was replaced, very effectively, by rookie David Wilson.

"The other day, for example, when he did injure the knee he got it taped and went back in," Coughlin said. "He's a tough son of a gun." METRO

KING FOR A DAY

Wilson reveling in record-breaking performance against Saints With Bradshaw questionable, he's again key Teammates rave over athleticism

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Wilson's 327 all-purpose yards against the Saints set a new Giants record, breaking the one held by teammate Domenik Hixon from 2009.

David Wilson may be a rookie, but it feels like he's already experienced two different seasons.

After being left in head coach Tom Coughlin's doghouse for most of the season following an opening-game fuble, he is now sitting on top of the world as one of the league's most-feared kick returners and a burgeoning threat out of the backfield.

Now that the Giants — and their demanding fans — have seen what Wilson is capable of, there's undoubtedly more pressure for an encore performance Sunday in Atlanta.

"I didn't have the greatest start for a rookie, and rookies have little room for error," Wilson said. "At that point I was put in a position where I had to gain the coaches' trust again. I stuck with it and kept working, and working at meetings, and working on the field, and trying to regain the trust. I knew eventually my opportunity would come again. I did those things so I would be prepared when the opportunity did approach."

"He's probably the best athlete on this team. You see it when he scores a touchdown."
JUSTIN TUCK, ON WILSON AND HIS POST-SCORE BACKFLIPS

Wideout Victor Cruz said the timing couldn't be better for Wilson's ascension, especially with the season-ending injury to Andre Brown, and now Ahmad Bradshaw's knee malady.

"He's capable of making some huge plays, especially when we need them the most, like his kickoffs [on Sunday]," Cruz said. "We would watch him in practice just do amazing things, whether it be breaking plays or making some cuts that we only see guys that are Hall of Famers make."

TONY WILLIAMS
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REGRET ME NOT

There are worse feelings than sitting by as an innocent bystander during semifinal week in fantasy football. Waterboarding comes to mind.

As we go through the pain of an unfulfilled season, our thoughts drift to next year. Some lessons to learn:

Injuries have changed

Roughly 30 years ago, a full ligament tear was a career-threatening injury. As recently as five years ago, it was widely assumed that a player would never be the same. Recently, players started flashing previous form 18 months after their injury. Now, guys are coming back better.

Should we regret avoiding **Adrian Peterson**, **Jamaal Charles**, **Mikel Leshoure** and **Knowshon Moreno**? Absolutely not. We used the information available to us and made a rational decision. But now, we need to adjust. NFL athletes, with today's advances in medicine and rehab, are in play the year after major injuries.

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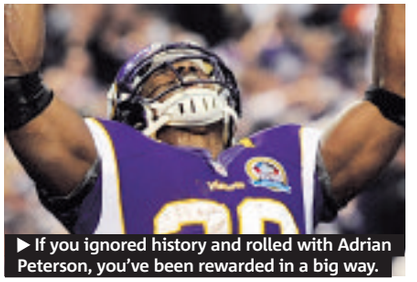

If you ignored history and rolled with Adrian Peterson, you've been rewarded in a big way.

Handcuffs not optional

The state of the running back position leaves us vulnerable every week. Not only must we own the backup to our starter under all circumstances, but our bench spots can be used for other lottery tickets. If you were stashing **Bryce Brown**, **David Wilson**, **Marcel Reece** or Moreno at various points this season, you are in the money. Don't forget it. ADAM LEVITAN

Bad WR matchups

With everything on the line, avoid these clashes if possible.

1 **Kenny Britt, TEN** — Britt finally rounded into form last week, but trouble lies ahead. Jets CB Antonio Cromartie is among the top cover guys in the league this season.

2 **Denarius Moore, OAK** — Moore has been benched at times in favor of Rod Streater lately. Now he'll have to deal with Chiefs CB Brandon Flowers.

3 **Sidney Rice, SEA** — The Seahawks run to win and Rice will be squaring off with red-hot Bills rookie Stephon Gilmore.

Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

GETTY IMAGES

1 PATRIOTS (10-3)
Who didn't see this coming? Tom Brady went on national TV and showed once again why he'll go down as one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks. Brady put himself back in the MVP conversation.

2 TEXANS (11-2)
That's two clunkers against MVP-caliber quarterbacks. Is this a growing trend in Houston? Or a case of extreme stage fright? We're giving them the benefit of the doubt — for now.

3 BRONCOS (10-3)
Eight straight wins and (assuming they don't start reading their own press clippings) only one potential loss (at Baltimore) left on the schedule.

4 FALCONS (11-2)
Maybe Atlanta was overlooking Carolina, with that playoff rematch vs. Giants on deck. Good teams can't do that. That's a bad loss.

5 49ERS (9-3-1)
Colin Kaepernick is delivering and rewarding Jim Harbaugh's trust. Alex Smith couldn't make that 50-yard run.

6 GIANTS (8-5)
Giants are 2-1 after bye, with two blowout wins over high-octane offenses (Green Bay, New Orleans).

7 PACKERS (9-4)
Dug themselves an early hole and then climbed right out of it (thank you, Matt Stafford).

8 RAVENS (9-4)
A two-game losing streak isn't usually cause for great concern, yet Baltimore fired Cam Cameron anyway.

9 COLTS (9-4)
Don't look now, but Andrew Luck is two wins away from possibly winning an improbable division title.

10 BEARS (8-5)
This week is their season. If Chicago can't muster a win vs. Green Bay they might want to start making some tee times.

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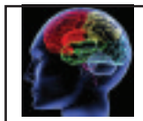

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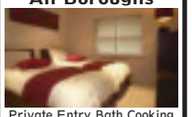

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Notice of Formation of 106-15 Northern LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/13/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o 106-15 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY 11368. Purpose, any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 938 East 163RD, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/19/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o Alan Markopoulos, 315 East 106th Street, Apt 10F New York, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 960 ROGERS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/19/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o Alan Markopoulos, 315 East 106th Street, Apt 10F New York, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 2675 DECATUR, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/19/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o Alan Markopoulos, 315 East 106th Street, Apt 10F New York, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 4282 PARK, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/19/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o Alan Markopoulos, 315 East 106th Street, Apt 10F New York, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 2612 BRIGGS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/19/2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC c/o Alan Markopoulos, 315 East 106th Street, Apt 10F New York, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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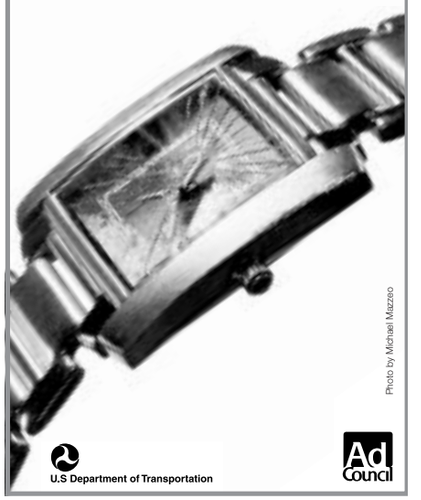

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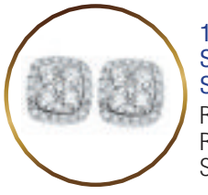

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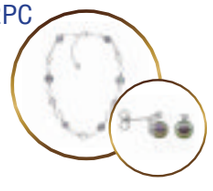

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